

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1 - 27. (previously canceled)

28. (original) A harvesting method comprising:

making a first harvesting pass in one direction through a field of standing crop materials including severing standing materials from the ground and depositing them onto the ground within a mowed strip created by the first harvesting pass to form a first deposit of severed materials,

said first harvesting pass being carried out at a location spaced inwardly from an edge of uncut standing crop materials so as to leave uncut standing crop materials along opposite sides of the mowed strip;

making a second harvesting pass in the opposite direction through uncut standing crop materials including severing standing materials from the ground and directing them laterally onto the ground within the mowed strip of the first pass to form a second deposit of severed materials in the mowed strip in association with the first deposit; and

making a third harvesting pass in said one direction through uncut standing crop materials including severing standing materials from the ground and directing them laterally onto the ground within the mowed strip of the first pass to form a third deposit of severed materials in the mowed strip in association with the first and second deposits, said second and third passes being carried out with a cross-conveyor in a lowered position for receiving a stream of severed materials before they are returned to the ground after severance and for moving such materials in a lateral direction to the mowed strip of the first pass;

said first pass being carried out with the cross-conveyor in a raised position for allowing the stream of severed materials to pass beneath the raised cross-conveyor and return to the ground in the mowed strip.

29. (original) A harvesting method as claimed in claim 28,  
said first pass creating a band of uncut standing crop materials along one side of the mowed strip and a body of uncut standing crop materials along the other side of the mowed strip,  
said second pass being carried out through said body of uncut standing crop materials and  
said third pass being carried out through said band of uncut standing crop materials.

30. (original) A harvesting method as claimed in claim 28,  
said step of conveying the materials in a lateral direction including moving the materials at a first speed for a predetermined distance during such conveyance and then accelerating the materials to a second faster speed before they leave the cross-conveyor.

31. (original) A harvesting method as claimed in claim 30,  
further comprising the step of directing the severed materials upwardly before they leave the cross-conveyor.

32. (original) A harvesting method as claimed in claim 28,  
further comprising the step of directing the severed materials upwardly before they leave the cross-conveyor.

33. (original) A harvesting method as claimed in claim 32,  
said step of conveying the materials in a lateral direction including moving the materials at  
a first speed for a predetermined distance during such conveyance and then  
accelerating the materials to a second faster speed before they leave the cross-  
conveyor.

34. (previously added) A harvesting method comprising:  
making a first harvesting pass in one direction through a field of standing crop materials  
including severing standing materials from the ground and depositing them onto the  
ground within a mowed strip created by the first harvesting pass to form a first  
deposit of severed materials,  
said first harvesting pass being carried out at a location spaced inwardly from an edge of  
uncut standing crop materials so as to leave uncut standing crop materials along  
opposite sides of the mowed strip;  
making a second harvesting pass in the opposite direction through uncut standing crop  
materials including severing standing materials from the ground and directing them  
laterally onto the ground within the mowed strip of the first pass to form a second  
deposit of severed materials in the mowed strip in association with the first deposit;  
and  
making a third harvesting pass in said one direction through uncut standing crop materials  
including severing standing materials from the ground and directing them laterally  
onto the ground within the mowed strip of the first pass to form a third deposit of  
severed materials in the mowed strip in association with the first and second deposits.